

...the first
Communist China, first
atomic bomb on the nose of
a missile was trained, nur-
tured, encouraged, honored,
paid and trusted for 15 years
in the United States.

Then, in the five years
between 1950 and
1955, the Govern-
ment became a
Man in the
News persecutor of Dr.
Tsien Hsue-shen,

arrested him as an
alien Communist, tried to de-
port him, changed its mind
and held him here against his
will, and finally let him re-
turn to his native China.

Dr. Tsien, who is 57 years
old, pronounces his name
tchee-EN Shoe-AY.

Dr. Tsien stoutly maintained
to the end that he never was
a Communist. The Government
charged he had become one be-
fore he came to the United
States in 1935 as a graduate
student in mechanical engineer-
ing, in one of the many Im-
migration Department hearings
held in his case, two Los An-
geles Police Department detec-
tives testified that he had joined
the party in 1939.

Before those troubles began,
Dr. Tsien had been so trusted
by the United States that he
was made director of the
rocket section of the United
States National Defense Sci-
entific Advisory Board. The
chief of the board was Gen.
Henry H. Arnold of the Air
Force.

Mission to Germany

Toward the close of World
War II, Dr. Tsien was given
the rank of an Air Force
colonel and made head of a
mission of scientists sent to
scout out the progress made
in missilery by the Germans.

Later he was one of a group
of scientific braintrusts as-
signed to predict how the next
war would be fought in the
air. Their report, called
"Toward New Horizons," was
the basis of much of Amer-
ica's later military develop-
ments and Dr. Tsien's contri-
butions were major.

One chapter discussed the
use of atomic fuels as aerial
propellants. Another was on
the use of solid fuels in
rockets.

"Brilliant," "hard-working,
"high personal capability"—
these were assessments made
of this Chinese scientist by
his colleagues. But during the
years he lived and work on
the campus of the Califor-
nia Institute of Technology
he was not easy to know.

'Relatively Humorous'

Dr. Homer Joe Stewart
one of his long-time col-
leagues and sponsors there,
described him as "relatively
humorous." Dr. Stewart re-
called that Dr. Tsien rarely
visited the homes of the other
professors who taught at that
great center of science.
Though they were colleagues
15 years, and worked on
terms of intimacy, Dr. Tsien
never invited Dr. Stewart to
his home.

His one known outside in-
terest was classical music; he
was a frequent concert-goer.
His wife, a Chinese whom he
married in the United States
in 1947, has been teaching at
a conservatory of music since
their return to China. They
have two children.

Born in Shanghai on Sept.
2, 1909, Dr. Tsien was an
undergraduate at Chiao Tung
University there and proved
so promising that he was
given a scholarship to study
in America when he grad-
uated in 1934. He went to the
Massachusetts Institute of
Technology, where he won a
master's degree in 1936, and
then transferred to Cal Tech.

There, after three years, he
won a doctor's degree.
Years of teaching and re-

U.S. training at the service of Red China.

search at Cal Tech followed.
He took part in the first
Government-sponsored rocket
research there and in 1943
was named an associate pro-
fessor and chief research
analyst in the jet propulsion
laboratory headed by Dr.
Stewart.

Much of the research work
he participated in was secret
and was commissioned by the
Navy, but the Government
said later that none of his
work after 1947 was regarded
as secret.

In 1946 Dr. Tsien returned
to China and was offered the
presidency of his alma mater,
but the Minister of Education
thought a man of 36 was too
young for the post and refused
to approve the appointment.

Dr. Tsien then went back
to Cal Tech to resume his
work there. He subsequently
was named Goddard Professor
of Jet Propulsion.

The first hint any of his
colleagues had of impending
trouble came in 1950, when
Government agents sized 1,800
pounds of papers and books
on rocketry and space physics
he was intending to ship to
Hong Kong. It was charged
that the papers contained in-
formation valuable to the
United States and that the
true destination was Shang-
hai.

Long Deportation Effort

Later, the Government an-
nounced that there was noth-
ing secret in the papers. But
the effort to deport him
dragged on for several years
and ended in another irony.
After he was sentenced to be
deported as a Communist, the
Government held up execu-
tion of the deportation on the
ground that Dr. Tsien pos-
sessed so much knowledge of
potential value to an enemy
that it would be "inimical to
the best interests of the Uni-
ted States" to let him leave.

That judgment seems to
have been justified by time.
On his return to China Dr.
Tsien was named to the
Academy of Sciences and im-
mediately put to work on de-
veloping weaponry. A year
later it was announced that
he had joined the Communist
party.

Since disappearing behind
the modern Great Wall China
has erected around her bor-
ders, Dr. Tsien is not known
to have had any contacts with
Western scientists, although
infrequent reports mention
his name in connection with
missions to Moscow.

Perhaps the best clue to his
standing now with the rulers
of China is a photograph that
circulated here a few years
ago. It showed Dr. Tsien
dressed in a military uniform
without any insignia and
seated at a plain wooden table.
Seated beside him, and
was Mao Tse-tung.

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